

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/347,034

Examiner

Barbara N. Burgess

Applicant(s)

ALBERT ET AL.

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments filed April 7, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-88.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 January 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SALEM NAJJAR**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Frame on Friday, June 24, 2005.

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 48-49 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 48-49 as follow:

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium for handling packets, the computer readable storage medium comprising code operable to:

- receive instructions from a service manager;
- process packets according to the instructions;
- forward selected packets from a forwarding agent to the service manager, wherein the forwarding agent and the service manager are configured on a single network device such that one or more packets may be exchanged between the forwarding agent and the service manager within the network device, and wherein the single network device includes an additional forwarding agent and an additional service manager and the single network device is coupled to one or more servers that are operable to satisfy a request generated by one or more clients that are coupled to a network disposed

Art Unit: 2157

between the clients and the single network device, and wherein a portion of traffic generated by the clients, which is destined for one or more of the servers, is handled by the forwarding agent and another portion of the traffic is handled by the additional forwarding agent;

receive packet handling instructions from the service manager at the forwarding agent that include the actions determined by the service manager for the packet;

receive a subsequent packet at the forwarding agent;

determine that the subsequent packet matches a criteria included in the packet handling instructions; and

handle the subsequent packet at the forwarding agent according to the packet handling instructions, wherein the instructions provided by the service manager are associated with a selected one of a group consisting of:

a routing operation',

a load balancing operation',

a packet modification operation;

a tunneling operation; and

a tag switching operation.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium for providing a network service, the computer readable storage medium comprising code operable to: receive packet interest instructions from a service manager, the instructions specifying

Art Unit: 2157

one or more packets that a forwarding agent is to communicate to the service manager, wherein the forwarding agent and the service manager are configured on a single network device such that one or more packets may be exchanged between the forwarding agent and the service manager within the network device, and wherein the single network device includes an additional forwarding agent and an additional service manager and the single network device is coupled to one or more servers that are operable to satisfy a request generated by one or more clients that are coupled to a network disposed between the clients and the single network device, and wherein a portion of traffic generated by the clients, which is destined for one or more of the servers, is handled by the forwarding agent and another portion of the traffic is handled by the additional forwarding agent;

receive an initial packet that matches one of the packets specified in the packet interest instructions from the service manager;

communicate the initial packet to the service manager so that the packet may be processed at the service manager to determine one or more actions that are to be performed for the packet;

receive packet handling instructions from the service manager at the forwarding agent that include the actions determined by the service manager for the packet;

receive a subsequent packet at the forwarding agent;

determine that the subsequent packet matches a criteria included in the packet handling instructions; and

handle the subsequent packet at the forwarding agent according to the packet handling

instructions, wherein the instructions provided by the service manager are associated with a selected one of a group consisting of:

a routing operation;  
a load balancing operation;  
a packet modification operation;  
a tunneling operation; and  
a tag switching operation.

***Reason For Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the single network device including an additional forwarding agent and an additional service manager and wherein a portion of traffic is handled by the forwarding agent and another portion of the traffic is handled by the additional forwarding agent.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Claims 1-88 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

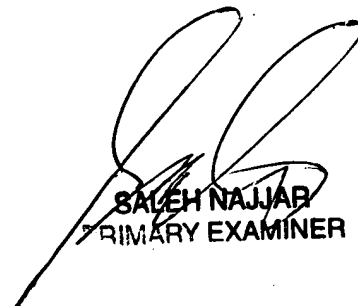
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2157

June 24, 2005

  
SALEH NAJJAR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER